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News from the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program

See you at the Tobacco Prevention conference, March 23-25

More than 200 community, tribal, disparities, and Educational Service District contractors, and other tobacco prevention partners have registered for the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program's 2004 conference. *Changing the Environment: Policies, People, Practices* will be held March 23-25 at the SeaTac DoubleTree Hotel. The conference is packed with trainings and workshops, great speakers, and there will be plenty of opportunities to network with your colleagues from around the state to learn what's new, what's working, and what needs to be improved. For more information about the conference, go to www.doh.wa.gov/tobacco/tobaccoconf/default.htm.



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Tobacco prevention veteran joins the program



Julie Thompson, a 15-year tobacco prevention veteran, has joined the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program as a cessation specialist. Julie began her tobacco prevention work in 1988 with the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, spent a year at the Center For Health Promotion/Group Health as a tobacco cessation development manager, and worked with tobacco prevention program at the Whatcom County Health Department. In addition, she served as the president of Tobacco Free Washington, the ASSIST program, from 1993 to 1994. "Julie's expertise will be an invaluable addition to our program," said Terry Reid, Tobacco

Program manager. "We look forward to her specific knowledge and skills, and her historical perspective on tobacco prevention."

For more information, contact Terry Reid at 360-236-3665 or terry.reid@doh.wa.gov.

Washington State streamlines compliance check recording

The Washington State Department of Health and the state Liquor Control Board are testing a new system that will allow liquor control agents to record and track tobacco compliance checks while in the field.

With the new system, liquor control agents will record compliance check information into hand-held computers and then download data from the computers directly into the Health Department's Web-based reporting system, CATALYST (Community Action on Tobacco Evaluation System). This will streamline data entry processes and allow immediate access to current retailer information.

Local health departments also conduct compliance checks and enter their data directly into CATALYST. Combining the two sources of data will allow comprehensive tracking of all compliance checks done in the state and provide a comprehensive look at underage tobacco sales activity.

Pending the outcome of the initial testing, the system will be tested with Public Health Seattle-King County, which operates one of the largest compliance check programs in the country.

For more information, contact Tom Wiedemann at 360-236-3643 or tom.wiedemann@doh.wa.gov.

Materials clearinghouse improvements

The Tobacco Program will recruit an advisory committee to oversee its materials clearinghouse and develop a new staff position to manage the operation, as recommended by the program's Implementation Advisory Committee on January 29.

The Implementation Advisory Committee affirmed the importance of maintaining an easily accessible clearinghouse of culturally appropriate materials that are linked with statewide priorities. It recommended that an advisory committee be established to:

- Assist the Tobacco Program in reviewing and selecting materials with assistance from the Tobacco Prevention Resource Center.
- Provide input into the operations of the clearinghouse to ensure it is meeting its mission.

In addition, the Implementation Advisory Committee recommended that the Tobacco Program:

- Develop a system for tracking and reporting on inventory and users of the clearinghouse.
- Develop a Web-based process for customers to order materials (with photos and a brief description of each piece of material).

- Define the audience for the clearinghouse to include all Washington state residents, particularly program contractors, Educational Service District contractors, schools, retailers, healthcare professionals, and community-based organizations.
- Ask contractors to identify clearinghouse materials needs (type of material and estimated quantities) when they develop annual work plans.

For more information, contact Terry Reid at 360-236-3665 or terry.reid@doh.wa.gov.

Tacoma-Pierce County smoking ban reinstated

The Tacoma-Pierce County smoking ban, which was the first in the state and was subsequently thrown out by a Pierce County court, has been reinstated by the Court of Appeals. Commissioner Ernetta Skerle granted an emergency stay of the lower court ruling, saying that the potential health risks of smoking in bars, restaurants, and other businesses outweigh the potential financial losses those businesses might suffer. The ruling does not overturn the lower court ruling on the issue but allows the ban to be enforced while the case is being tried. Information about the ban is available on the [Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department's Web site](#).



For more information, contact Tom Wiedemann at 360-236-3643 or tom.wiedemann@doh.wa.gov.

RJ Reynolds' materials in local libraries

Some libraries in the state have received materials from tobacco-giant RJ Reynolds designed to “educate” the public about smoking. The materials promote a positive image of the industry but lack the most effective anti-tobacco messages. The campaign materials, *Right Decisions, Right Now*, are focused on showing teens it’s their choice whether or not to smoke. Contractors are encouraged to work with local libraries to educate librarians about these materials and provide appropriate educational resources.

For more information, contact Tom Wiedemann at 360-236-3643 or tom.wiedemann@doh.wa.gov.

Kick Butts Day

“Stand Out, Speak Up, Seize Control” is the theme for the ninth annual Kick Butts Day, scheduled for March 31. This year’s event will feature new activities based on input from youth advocates, and the new activity guide is now available on the Kick Butts Day Web site. Event organizers can register their events and order materials on the Web site.



For more information, visit Tobacco Free Kids at www.kickbuttsday.org

Tobacco Prevention Resource Center Update



Upcoming Speakers

The Tobacco Prevention Resource Center is sponsoring speakers at two upcoming conferences. Former Mississippi Attorney General Michael Moore will speak at the National Association of School Nurses 36th Annual Conference, July 11-14. For more information, [visit the conference Web site](#). Daniel E. McGoldrick, director of research for the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, will speak at the Comprehensive Health Education Foundation 9th Annual National Prevention Symposium, July 28-30. For more information and to register for the symposium, visit the [Web site](#).

Cessation Training

Dr. Corinne Husten, Office on Smoking and Health, Epidemiology Branch, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, will present a training on April 7 from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. in SeaTac. Topics include medical consequences for individual tobacco users and the public health impact of tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke; the impact of tobacco use, addiction, prevention, secondhand smoke exposure and related disease; and adult cessation (see schedule below).

Strategic Planning Training

Strategic planning sessions are being offered as a two-day training designed to assist local contractors in writing their strategic plans (see schedule below).

Upcoming Events

Date	Topic	Location
April 7	Cessation	SeaTac
April 21	Behavioral Theory & Program Planning: How to Use Them in the Real World of Tobacco Prevention	Spokane
April 21-22	Strategic Planning	Olympia
May 5-6	Strategic Planning	Yakima
May 12-13	Strategic Planning	Spokane
May 19-20	Strategic Planning	SeaTac
July 11-14	National Association of School Nurses Conference	Seattle
July 28-30	Comprehensive Health Education Foundation Prevention Symposium	Seattle

To register for trainings, contact the Tobacco Prevention Resource Center at 206-447-1755 or tobaccoprc@jba-cht.com. For more information online, go to www.tobaccoprc.org.

More Resource Center news

- For easier access, the Tobacco Prevention Resource Center Web site, www.tobaccoprc.org, no longer requires a password and login.

- Contractors are encouraged to check out the “Lessons Learned/Resources” section of the “Technical Assistance” page of the Web site.
- Copies of the *Tobacco Technical Assistance Consortium’s Basics of Tobacco Control* or *LGBT Populations and Tobacco* CD-ROMs are available by contacting contact Kirsten Harris at 206-447-1755 or kirstenh@jba-cht.com.

Submissions for future newsletters

Submissions from Tobacco Program contractors and partners for inclusion in future newsletters are always welcome. Send information about projects, tobacco-related local news items, and other information to share with tobacco prevention colleagues to Wright Communications Inc. at wright2@olywa.net or 360-943-3642.

Tobacco Web site update

The Tobacco Program is undertaking a series of changes to both the public and contractor sections of the Web site. These changes are aimed at enhancing the content and making the sites easier to use. The revised public section of the site is scheduled to be online in late March and the contractor section soon thereafter. The latest compliance check and Synar reports are now available on the [Youth Access section of the Web site](#).

For more information, or if you have suggestions for things you’d like to see on the site, contact Susan Zemek at 360-236-3634 or susan.zemek@doh.wa.gov

Online news and information

The California Department of Health Services is sponsoring a new anti-tobacco Web site at TobaccoFreeCA.com

The University of California, San Francisco has launched a new cessation site for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) smokers called [iQuit](#).

The American Legacy Foundation has a new youth activism Web site at www.streeththeory.org.

The inaugural issue of *Preventing Chronic Disease*, the Centers for Disease Control’s online e-journal is now available. To subscribe, go to www.cdc.gov/pcd, and click on subscriptions and follow the instructions.

The current issue of *O2 magazine*, produced by Teen Media Futures, is now available. [View O2 magazine](#).

The latest issue of the *Tobacco Free Press*, produced by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, is now available. [View the Tobacco Free Press](#).

The Tobacco Technical Assistance Consortium (TTAC) provides a regular newsletter with helpful information on tobacco control. The consortium builds capacity to achieve effective tobacco prevention and control programs and policies. [View TTAC Exchange newsletter](#).

Those interested in educating about smoke-free dining can find information about smoke-free restaurants and the dangers of secondhand smoke at the Tobacco Scam Web site. [Visit Tobacco Scam.](#)

In the news

Teens buy nicotine patches as easily as cigarettes (March 2)

Teenagers can purchase nicotine replacement therapy with relative ease, according to new research. [Read the full story.](#)

Ban on tobacco advertising nearing (March 1)

Officials of the Formula One racing series said next year's European Union ban on tobacco sponsorship of sporting events will significantly impact the sport. [Read the full story.](#)

Troops and tobacco: A hard habit for America's soldiers to break (February 29)

Despite efforts to reduce smoking among military personnel, tobacco use remains a big problem. [Read the full story.](#)

Sultan tries smoking out teen users (February 28)

The City of Sultan more aggressively cites teen smokers. [Read the full story.](#)

Tobacco state's edgy anti-smoking ad campaign draws cautious praise (February 27)

Virginia's anti-tobacco campaign, featuring Buttman, is becoming increasingly popular in that state. [Read the full story.](#)

Smoking in movies back to high levels of 1950s (February 27)

Smoking is returning big time to the silver screen, according to a new study. [Read the full story.](#)

One way or another, enact a smoking ban (February 26)

A Tacoma News Tribune editorial calls for an indoor smoking ban. [Read the full story.](#)

Mom's smoking tied to adult children's lung disease (February 26)

A study from the United Kingdom finds that children of mothers who smoke have smaller lung volumes and are more at risk for serious lung disease later in life. [Read the full story.](#)

Initiative would be better than weak smoking ban (February 25)

A Tacoma News Tribune editorial calls for an initiative effort to ban smoking in public places. [Read the full story.](#)

Non-smoking areas 'ineffective' protection (February 23)

Designated no smoking areas give little or no protection from the dangers of inhaling tobacco smoke, a new study has claimed. [Read the full story.](#)

Taking cash from tobacco will cost researchers (February 20)

Scientists who receive financial support from the tobacco industry will soon be barred from receiving grants from the American Cancer Society. [Read the full story.](#)

Court could breath life into smoking ban (February 19)

The state Court of Appeals agreed to consider allowing the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department to re-institute its controversial countywide indoor smoking ban. [Read the full story.](#)

Let's hope voters get a say on teacher strikes, smoking ban (February 19)

A Yakima Herald editorial calls for an indoor smoking ban initiative. [Read the full story.](#)

Ireland launches workplace smoking ban (February 18)

Ireland will outlaw smoking in all enclosed workplaces – pubs included – by the end of next month. [Read the full story.](#)

Youth smoking ban approved (February 17)

Lighting up in Everett is now something that can land young people in juvenile court. [Read the full story.](#)

Activists protest Schwarzenegger's smoking (February 14)

Cigar-loving Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is converting the California capitol's interior courtyard into an all-weather "smoking plaza". [Read the full story.](#)

Big Tobacco fights higher cigarette tax (February 12)

Tobacco companies testified against efforts to raise Virginia's lowest-in-the-nation cigarette tax. [Read the full story.](#)

Smoking outside still harms children (February 11)

Children have nicotine in their body even if parents smoke outdoors with the doors closed, researchers have found. [Read the full story.](#)

Sports don't really keep teens from tobacco (February 5)

High school athletes smoke only slightly less than their classmates, but use snuff or chewing tobacco more often, says a study drawn from a national survey. [Read the full story.](#)

Georgia lawmakers consider smoking ban in cars with children (February 5)

The Georgia House of Representatives Transportation Committee passed a bill that would ban smoking in private vehicles where children are passengers. [Read the full story.](#)

Seattle arts scene has a sly new patron – Big Tobacco (February 3)

Big Tobacco is becoming a bigger patron of Seattle's alternative scene. [Read the full story.](#)